

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1540 without my signature.

Emergency room closures pose a threat to the health of all Californians and this serious issue should be addressed. While I support the author's intention to require hospitals to notify the regional emergency services agency when they plan to close an emergency room, the minimum one year moratorium prohibiting a licensee from expanding services in other areas of the community and state is excessive and would further decrease access to care.

I would encourage the author to reintroduce this legislation next year with more appropriate penalties for failure to comply with the notification requirements.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger